

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Staff Sergeant James B. Blaha's dedication to service has made him a valuable asset to this state and country; and,

Whereas, We have very few occasions to recognize the patriotic individuals for their service to this state and country; and,

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Blaha devoted more than 20 years of his life to the service of this state and country as a Bridge Crewman, General Construction Equipment Operator, Carpenter and Section Sergeant with the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Active Army; he has attended training in Germany, Panama, Nicaragua and deployment to Kuwait in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom and many state activations in support of fire-fighting operations, blizzards and floods; and,

Whereas, His loyalty and leadership have made him a cornerstone in the Armed Forces of this country; and,

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Blaha continues to give of himself; and,

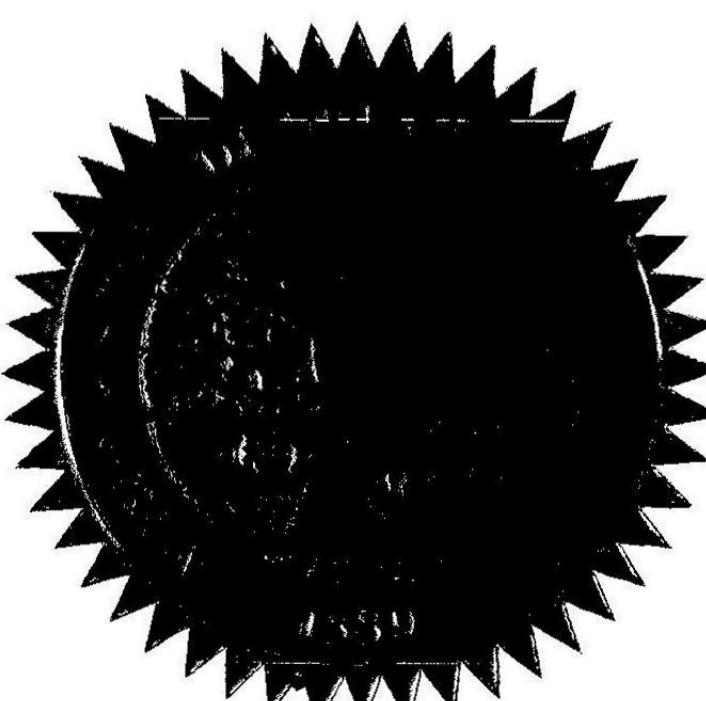
Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to commend Staff Sergeant James B. Blaha for more than 20 years of dedicated and outstanding service to this state and country:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2006, as

STAFF SERGEANT JAMES B. BLAHA DAY

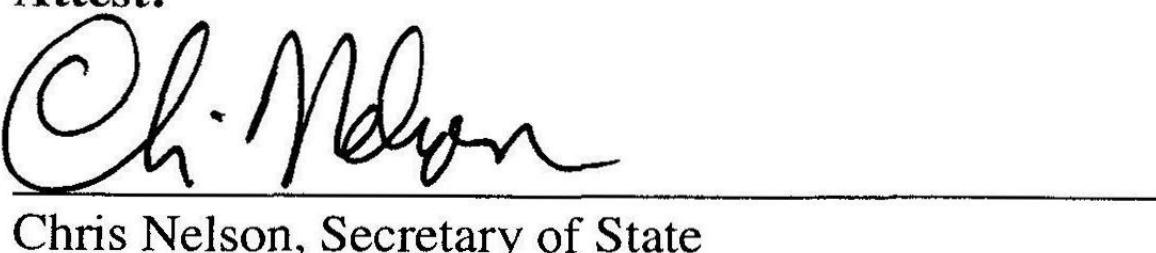
in South Dakota, and I join with his family and friends in wishing him well in his retirement and thanking him for his service to the state of South Dakota and to the United States.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.




M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State